



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

RE: House Bill No. 399 HD1 SD2 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 399 entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Agriculture" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

House Bill No. 399 appropriates \$500,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts for the operation of the sixteen soil and water conservation districts.

The objective of this bill to support the soil and water districts in Hawaii is laudable.

Regrettably, the Legislature appropriated these funds outside of the normal budget process. These expenditures have not been included in the State's six-year financial plan and have not been weighed against other State priorities. Since I took office in 2002, I have urged the Legislature to exercise fiscal discipline and prudent financial planning by acting only after developing a comprehensive, multi-year fiscal framework. This year, as I have in all previous legislative sessions, I exercised financial discipline by developing a six-year, balanced and comprehensive financial plan prior to submitting my executive budget. Unfortunately, the Legislature did not exercise the same fiscal responsibility by including this appropriation as part of the Executive Biennium Budget.

We would urge the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to work closely with their contacts at the federal level, including the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to identify federal resources and grants to continue the federal assistance these districts have traditionally received.

Additionally, we will work with them to effectively use the \$85,000 provided annually through the State's budget for carrying out the work of these districts.

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
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For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 399 to become law as Act 287,
effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Lingle', written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE